

NOTES ON MORIUS OCCIDENS CASEY WITH A
DESCRIPTION OF THE MALE

(Coleoptera: Pselaphidae)

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On the basis of a unique female, broken into many parts, Thomas L. Casey described *Morius occidentis* in 1893. Casey's description is to be found in Bowman's Pselaphidae of North America and the genus is keyed into the North American pselaphid fauna by Park (1953). The male has not previously been described.

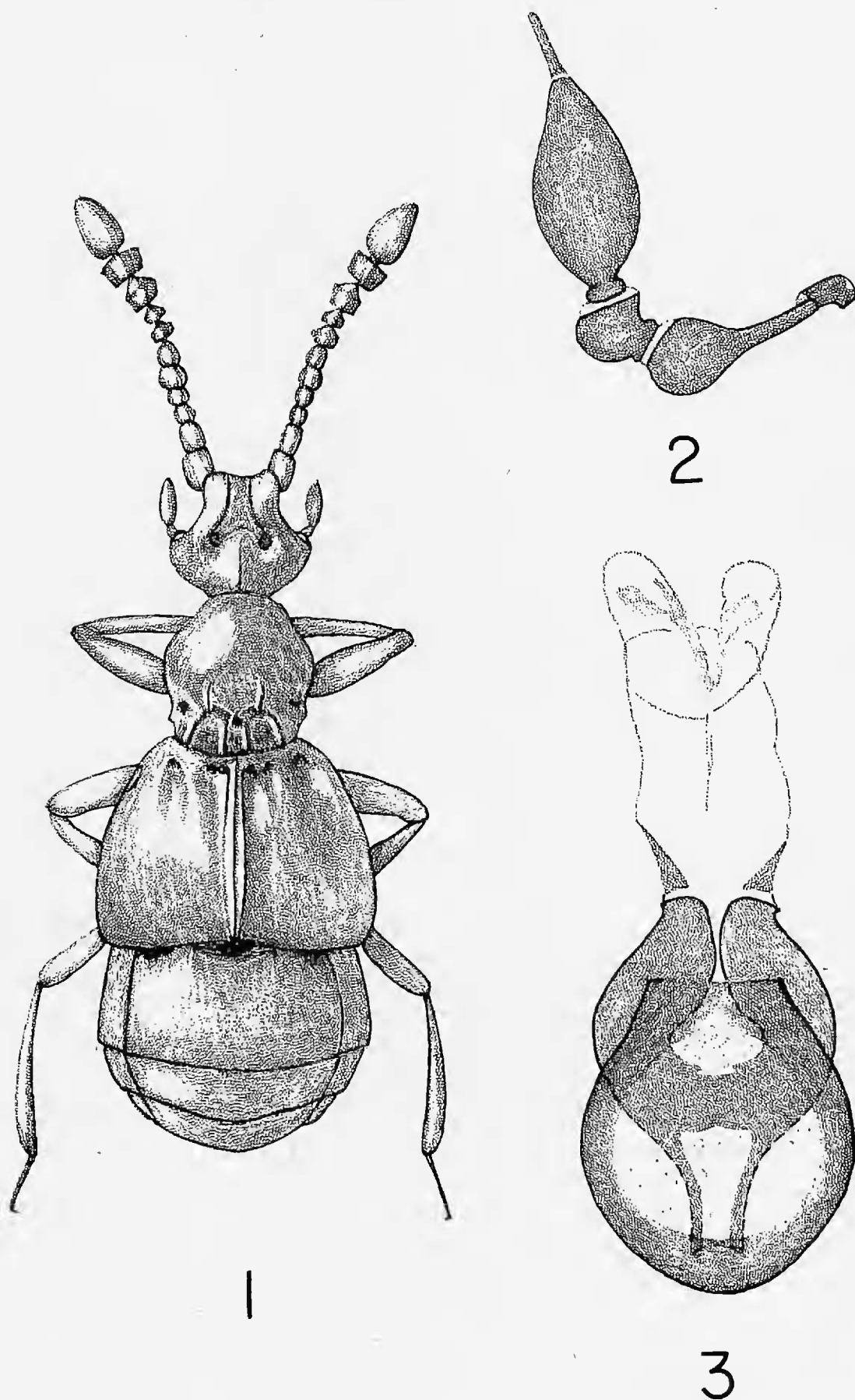
The genera *Morius* and *Rhinoscepsis* are the only North American representatives of the subtribe Rhinoscepsina, tribe Euplectini. *Morius* was previously known only from the type collected in Santa Cruz County, California.

What appears to be one species of *Morius* has been recovered at a low frequency from leaf mold in the Coast Range from Monterey to Mendocino Counties in California. The number of specimens in the series now available for study is insufficient to determine the nature of variation, mainly color and degree of pubescence. The male is associated with Casey's female because (1) it is the predominant form recovered in Santa Cruz County, (2) it is of the proper size and color, and (3) it agrees with the type except for the male sexual characters. (Comparison with the type, which I have not seen, was made by Gordon A. Marsh.)

Casey's original description was good, and only a few characters, mainly of the mouth parts of the female, and those pertaining to the male are described here.

MORIUS OCCIDENS Casey

Additions to description of female. Head as in Casey's description but with weak median carina extending from neck to about the vertexal foveae. Labrum straight across the front, rounded at lateral margins; 2 cone-shaped structures occur medially on lower front margin and 5 or 6 in a row behind the first 2; 4 macrosetae arise laterally, 1 on the dorsal surface and 3 ventrally. Mandibles heavy, 6 teeth on each inner ramus; 1 lamellate seta occurs midway on the dorsal surface along with a few smaller setae. Maxillary palpus with segment I small, $1/3$ length of II; II thin for basal $1/2$ and swollen at distal $1/2$; III slightly more than $1/3$ length of II and equally as wide; IV 3 times as long as III and noticeably wider, terminated by a long, thin palpal cone almost $1/2$ as long as segment IV; 2 specialized setae occur midway on outer surface. Abdomen of 5 visible tergites and 6 visible sternites. Tergite I with fovea formed by 2 apodemes at each



EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

Morius occidentis: Fig. 1, adult male, dorsal aspect; Fig. 2, maxillary palpus; Fig. 3, aedeagus, dorsal aspect.

anterio-lateral margin and a large pubescent excavation occupying the median $1/3$; II with a much smaller depression at the anterior margin; other tergites simple; sternite I entire behind coxal lines although this condition is obscured by pubescence on point-mounted specimens; II 3 times as long as I with a deep, pubescent, transverse sulcus at the front margin. Mesosternum with 2 carinae and 3 anterior pubescent foveae; mesocoxae narrowly separated, the coxal cavities confluent but nearly closed by processes of the meso- and metasterna; a large pubescent fovea occurs laterad and one posterior to each coxa; metacoxae contiguous.

Male.—As in the female with the exception of the abdominal tergites. Brachypterous males have been noted and fully winged populations may eventually be found. Six sternites are readily visible, and a seventh, a minute penal plate strongly attached to a genital segment and usually removed with the aedeagus during dissection, is sclerotized distally and may at times be visible externally. A small, semi-triangular projection occurs at the middle of the posterior margin of the third visible sternite. Male aedeagus 0.23 mm. long \times 0.15 mm. wide; dorsal surface of capsule membranous, ventral surface mostly so, depending to some extent on the age of the individual; two parameres ventrally, extending to rear of capsule and bridged by wide connection at about $1/2$ the length of the aedeagus; a membranous tube, apically bifid, is weakly sclerotized near the apex of each paramere and again at the terminal dichotomy; numerous small pores are present along the apical margin of the parameres and a number of fine setae occur along their lateral margins.

LITERATURE CITED

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FOURTH ANNUAL INSECT PHOTOGRAPHIC SALON

The Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America announces the fourth annual insect photographic salon to be held in conjunction with its meeting in Sacramento, June 23-25, 1959. Photographs will be judged in three categories: monochrome, color transparency, and color transparency sequence. Deadline for all entries is June 16, 1959. Entry blanks may be obtained from Dr. E. S. Ross, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco 18, California.